Research an American Author

Library/Research Skills and Technology Lesson – Secondary Level

Content Objectives:

    A. Use organizational features of traditional resources/electronic text to locate information.
    B. Utilize computer software to write and revise text and to create visual aids.

Process Objectives:

    1. Task Definition
        What is the task?
        What types of information do I need?
    2. Information Seeking Strategies
        What are possible sources?
        Which are the best?
    3. Location & Access
        Where is each source?
        Where is the information in each source?
    4. Use of Information
        How can I best use each source (e.g., reading, viewing, and listening)?
        What information in each source is useful?
    5. Synthesis
        How can I organize all the information?
        How can I present the result?
    6. Evaluation
        Is the task completed?
        How can I do things better?

Skills to which this lesson is associated:

752.05.b – Demonstrate understanding of graphics.
753.01.a – Demonstrate steps of the writing process: brainstorm, draft, revise, edit, publish.
753.06.a – Gather, synthesize, and communicate research findings.

Lesson setup and Materials:

❑ Video projector
❑ Sample of students writing from previous year
❑ Student ID card/computer rights
❑ Pens, paper, notebook cards, and disk if working on project at home
❑ Handout – 19th Century American Authors List

Lesson introduction:

Begin by presenting previous papers and two powerpoint presentations completed by past students. Hand out list of American Authors.

Lesson dialogue:

Over the next few days you wil be conduction research on a well-known American writer from a provided list. With the research that you find you will prepare a PowerPoint that will be presented to the class. Below you will find the requirements for this project. These requirements must be adequately met to receive a passing grade.

I. **Research**
   A. Note Cards with 3 sources
   B. Work Cited Page
   C. Downloadable picture of author
   D. Author's date of birth, death and writing time period (romanticism, realism, modernism, regionalism, etc)
   E. Educational background
   F. First Published work and date
   G. 203 well-known stories or novels
   H. Quote from author about his/her won writing or writing in general
   I. Quotes from outside sources that gain insight into the author's writing, themes, influences

II. **PowerPoint**
   A. 8-12 slides
   B. Contrasting background color and text. (Readable)
   C. Work Cited Page at end of presentation
   D. Printed Version due by date of presentation

Value: 140 points
- **Note Cards   20 points**
- **Work Cited   20 points**
- **Presentation &**
  & PowerPoint   <u>100 points</u>

140 points

Assessment:

Students complete research and PowerPoint measuring the skills stated above.

Multimedia Project: Research PowerPoint

Teachers: LeDoux & Earnest

Student Name _____

CATEGORY	100	75	50	25
Content	Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent.	Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good.	Includes essential information about the topic but there are 1-2 factual errors.	Content is minimal OR there are several factual errors.
Organization	Content is well organized using headings or bulleted lists to group related material.	Uses headings or bulleted lists to organize, but the overall organization of topics appears flawed.	Content is logically organized for the most part.	There was no clear or logical organizational structure, just lots of facts.
Attractiveness	Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation.	Makes good use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance to presentation.	Makes use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but occasionally these detract from the presentation content.	Use of font, color, graphics, effects etc. but these often distract from the presentation content.
Originality	Product shows a large amount of original thought. Ideas are creative and inventive.	Product shows some original thought. Work shows new ideas and insights.	Uses other people's ideas (giving them credit), but there is little evidence of original thinking.	Uses other people's ideas, but does not give them credit.
Requirements	All requirements are met and exceeded.	All requirements are met.	One requirement was not completely met.	More than one requirement was not completely met.
Sources	Source inform ation collected for all graphics, facts and quotes. All documented in desired format	Source information collected for all graphics, facts and quotes. Most documented in desired. Format.	Source information collected for graphics, facts and quotes, but not documented in desired format.	Very little or no source information was collected.
Oral Presentation	Interesting, well-rehearsed with smooth delivery that holds audience attention.	Relatively interesting, rehearsed with a fairly smooth delivery that usually holds audience attention.	Delivery not smooth, but able to hold audience attention most of the time.	Delivery not smooth and audience attention lost.
Mechanics	No misspellings or grammatical errors.	Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors.	Four misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	More than 4 errors in spelling or grammar.